



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Thus Saith the Lord

THE ANTICHRIST

By Jeff Sweeten

The religious terms people use often betray what they have been taught; sometimes that's good (1 Peter 4:11), sometimes, not so much. We are all the product of what we have been taught so let's examine the way religious people use the term "Antichrist" as an example, because one should not hold as true things taught in contradiction to the Bible. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Unfortunately, the term antichrist is often capitalized by translators, which gives the false impression that this term refers to only one being; such is not the case. Let's allow the Bible to define the term as it is used in the four verses of John's epistles.

"Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that the antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." 1 John 2:18

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the son." 1 John 2:22

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is the spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now is already in the world." 1 John 4:3

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." 2 John 1:7

First, we find both the definition and the time-frame of existence. The texts are obviously not talking about one person but many persons. Antichrist is *a group of people* who have recognizable characteristics: (1) they are liars (they won't confess that Jesus came in the flesh and that neither the Father or Jesus is God) and (2) they are deceivers

Thus Saith the Lord – Hamilton Herald-News – 05/04/2023 (because, in denying Christ, they teach others and encourage others not to believe in the Son of God). That describes this *group*, the "*many antichrists*" that have come.

Second, and this is important with all the false doctrine running amuck about some evil personality that we are supposed to be looking for in the far-flung future, antichrists *were already in the world* at the time of the writing of John's epistle. The antichrist was not Adolf Hitler, Donald Trump or Mark Zuckerberg. To the contrary, he belongs to a group of people that were already causing problems for Christians during John's lifetime, and who would exist from then until now.

The entire "Antichrist" theory perpetuated by many religious teachers today does not come from the Bible. And, fanciful speculation that attempts to connect the antichrist to modern-day personalities is flawed. It is not denying a person's sincerity or love for God to point out that one who believes in this false "Antichrist" theory has either not been exposed to the truth of John's epistles or is in direct rebellion against God's Inspired Record.